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CAPAA RELEASES FIRST COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON THE STATE OF ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN WASHINGTON

OLYMPIA - The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs today released "The State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington," the first comprehensive report examining issues facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

"The current contributions, needs and challenges highlighted in this report indicate the significant role Asian American and Pacific Islanders play in the future of Washington" said Executive Director Kendee Yamaguchi.

This report looks at several areas including: The history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington, education, healthcare and human services, the criminal justice system, economic opportunities, housing, immigration, and political participation. A few highlighted facts from the report:

- Asian American and Pacific Islanders make up 8.5% of Washington's population and comprise one of the largest racial minority groups representing over 47 distinct populations.
- Pacific Islanders had one of the highest annual dropout rates of 7.2% and more than 40% of Asian American high school students are at risk of academic failure in math.
- Cancer is the leading cause of death among the community and there are higher incidence and death rates for lung, breast, cervical, liver and stomach cancer.
- Washington is among the ten states with the most AAPI owned small businesses with receipts of over \$6.2 billion and on average, for every dollar that a non-minority owned business earns, an Asian-owned businesses earns between 56 to 59 cents.
- AAPI borrowers in Washington were significantly more likely to receive high cost home loans than non-Hispanic white borrowers.

The Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs is a statewide government agency created by a Governor's Executive Order in 1974, mandated by the state legislature to improve the well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas.

This report is the result of a collaboration between the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality at the Seattle University School of Law, attorneys from Perkins Coie, fellows, and the Commission. The Center donated to the printing of over 1,000 copies of the report which will be provided to the Governor, members of the Legislature, state agency directors, and the AAPI community. Copies of the report are available online at <http://www.capaa.wa.gov>

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Agency Overview: The CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State. Visit us at www.capaa.wa.gov